

ILKLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER.

To the Chairman and
Members of the Ilkley Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit an Interim Report on the Sanitary condition of the District for the year 1918. In accordance with instructions from the Local Government Board having regard to the necessity for economy of paper Interim Reports only should be made and should be confined "to essential "and urgent matters which have affected the public health "during the year, especially any matters arising from or "connected with the War outbreaks of Infectious Disease "and measures for Maternity and Child Welfare, together with "any exceptional administrative measures taken or recommended "by the Medical Officer of Health".

The continued demands of the Military Authorities on the man power of the District has still further depleted the numbers of young men in the District and the strain on older men has been very great; every branch of industry in the District has been carried on under the greatest difficulty.

There have been no troops in training in the District but the Auxiliary Military Hospital has received a large number of wounded soldiers.

The Belgian Refugees in the District have been practically the same in number as the previous years. They are all in regular work and conduct themselves well.

THE FOOD SUPPLY of the District has been maintained and great credit is due to those who have controlled the supply, as there has always been an adequate supply of necessary food; and no cases have been brought to my notice of injury to health on account of either quality or quantity of food

obtainable. In my opinion the scarcity of luxuries and the lack of the opportunity for over indulgence has more than counterbalanced any shortage in the amount of certain articles of food.

THE HOUSING ACCOMMODATION in the District has been still more severely taxed than during the previous year and the supply of cottages for the working class and the smaller houses for the lower middle class has been very much below the demand; many families have been unable to come into the District as residents on account of the impossibility of finding dwellings. It is urgently necessary that the building of cottages and small houses should be carried out at the earliest possible moment. I am strongly of opinion that the provision of adequate housing accommodation by Local Authorities will materially lessen the number of cases of Tuberculosis and other diseases.

THE REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE and the work of scavenging the roads has been satisfactorily carried out.

SCHOOLS. I have regularly visited the Elementary Schools and Grammar School and am satisfied that they are all in a healthy and sanitary condition. All the Elementary Schools were closed for three weeks in the Spring on account of an outbreak of Measles and again shortly before Christmas for a similar period in consequence of the Influenza Epidemic.

VITAL STATISTICS. The number of deaths registered in the District was 96 and of these 13 were non-residents and 9 deaths of residents occurred away from the District so that the corrected number is 91. Six infants died under the age of one year, 3 of them being certified as of premature birth and lived only from one to six hours. Four of these infants were illegitimate. The infantile mortality is at the rate of 76.9 per 1000 net births. The number of Births registered was again below the number of deaths and only amounted to 78 of whom 38 were boys and 40 girls. There were 7 illegitimate births.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES. Measles were prevalent during the early months of the year, 90 cases being notified, one death occurring from this cause.

Whooping cough was also present during the same period 34 cases being notified.

There were 16 cases of Scarlet Fever, 15 of which were removed to the Isolation Hospital where one of them died.

Diphtheria accounted for 9 cases, of which 8 were removed to Hospital and all recovered.

Twelve cases of Tuberculosis were notified and 10 deaths from this disease were registered.

34 deaths from Influenza occurred during the year and ~~of~~ ^{are} these ~~also~~ deducted from the total deaths it will be seen that one in every seven of the remaining deaths was due to Tuberculosis.

38 deaths from Pneumonia have taken place; in 19 of which Influenza was also present.

5 cases of Erysipelas and one each of Ophthalmia Neonatorum and Enteric Fever (the latter a Soldier at the Auxiliary Military Hospital) have also been notified.

THE EPIDEMIC OF INFLUENZA. This disease appeared in an Epidemic form in the latter part of October and was virulent until the end of December. During this period 33 deaths took place and earlier in the year 2 deaths were registered, one on April 15th. and the other on July 15th. In 19 of these deaths Pneumonia was the immediate cause of death and in the remaining five Brights Disease, Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Meningitis were also present in 3 cases, the remaining two being certified as dying of Cardiac failure. It is difficult to form an exact estimate of the number of cases but I am of opinion that approximately 10% of the inhabitants of the District were affected. The special feature of this Epidemic compared with those of previous years is the large number of children affected. The period of incubation is probably very short, 48 hours or so, and the period of infectivity appears to last until the end of the feverish stage and not longer.

Of the large number of deaths none occurred in children under 10 years, 4 in those under 20, 8 between 20 and 30, 4 between 30 and 40, 5 between 40 and 50, and only 3 over the age of 50. It is thus evident that the greatest fatality is amongst young adults between 20 and 30 years.

The special feature about the cases of Pneumonia which ended fatally was the rapid progress of the disease, some cases dying on the third or fourth day.

The method of spread is by the breath of infected persons, and is very intense from the first onset of the disease. The present day popularity of Kinema Entertainments and other places of Amusement, have a great share in producing the serious extent of the present ~~Epidemic~~ ^{Epidemic}, as there is abundant evidence that the crowding of people together is the most fertile cause of spreading the infection and conversely plenty of fresh air, good food and clothing are the best means to avoid it.

DEATHS FROM INFLUENZA FOR EACH WEEKS OF 1918.

	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	Total
January					None
February					None
March					None
April			1		One
May					None
June					None
July			1		One
August					None
September					None
October				1	One
November	3	3	3	3	Ten
December	4	3	2	3	Eleven

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TABLE SHOWING AGE & SEX DISTRIBUTION OF THE DEATHS FROM
INFLUENZA.

	Under 10 years	10 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70
Males	-	3	4	1	4	-	1
Females	-	3	4	3	1	-	3

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE. The Health Visitor continues to carry out her work in a capable and satisfactory manner. She has attended a Welfare Centre which has been opened at the Town Hall where Mothers bring their Infants once each week for weighing and the distribution of Infant foods etc. The following is a record of her work in the District during the year.

No. of First Visits	45
" " Re-visits	333
" " Pre-natal visits	26
" " Children seen at School	1538
" " " visited at home	143

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully;

J. H. RICHARDSON. *M.D., M.O.H.*

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Town Hall, ILKLEY

31st. December 1918.

To the Ilkley Urban District Council.

Mr Chairman & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Sixteenth Annual Report which shows, in tabular form, the work accomplished or taken in hand by the Sanitary Department during the year ending 31st. December, 1918.

There have been 1110 nuisances dealt with, 801 have received the attention of owners, and 209 minor defects, affecting the drainage of private houses, most partial stoppages to drains and gullies of a temporary character when the cost was likely to be small, have been attended to by the Council's workmen.

The following is a summary of the Sanitary defects remedied, they vary in character, but all have a more or less detrimental effect upon the health of the Community:-

Abattoir Inspections	307	Factory, Workshop, and	
Accumulations of manure or		Workplaces inspected	140
other refuse removed.	56	HOUSES:-	
Ashpits delapidated and		Cement concrete floors	
removed	3	provided in basements	1
Black smoke	12	Floors, new to living	
Burial Grounds Inspection of	5	rooms provided or	
Bakehouses Inspection of	30	repaired	5
Cement or otherwise foul sinks		Filthy condition of	1
removed and glazed sinks		Roofs repaired	3
provided.	7	Through ventilation provided	1
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops		walls made dry by the	
inspection of	48	insertion of damp courses,	
Drains:-		or other methods	1
Cleansed on complaint or by		Walls and ceilings repaired	3
Council's Staff.	209	Inquiries into cases of	
Tested with smoke or	42	infectious diseases	26
chemicals		Inspection of houses on	
Tested with water	13	complaint or otherwise	61
Inspection chambers provided	12	Inspection of houses under	
Inspection airtight covers		Housing & Town Planning	12
provided	16	Act, 1909	
Reconstructed	6	Inspection of work in	
Repairs to	97	progress	114
Soil pipes removed, repaired		Letters calling attention	
& ventilated	3	to defects	312
Gullies replaced	123		

Miscellaneous defects remedied	180
Overcrowding abated	2
Poultry & animals removed	3
Reinspection of houses etc.	6
Schools inspected	4
Sewers blocked or otherwise defective	5
Sink or other waste pipes renewed, disconnected or trapped	37
Smoke observations taken	12
Swill tubs so kept as to be a nuisance	1
Urinals inspected in connection with hotels and other premises	12

WATER CLOSETS:-

Additional W.C.'s provided	2
Flushing apparatus provided or repaired	68
New Pedestals provided	39
Structural defects remedied	74
Waste water closets blocked	71
Water running to waste	17
Window sashes hung or otherwise made to open	
full size	34
Windows areas, filthy condition of	8
Yard pavement provided or repaired in connection with dwelling houses	2

DAIRIES & COWSHEDS ORDER. There are 12 Cowsheds within the District and 11 Purveyors of Milk. Quarterly inspections have been made of the former during the year and they have been kept in a cleanly condition and well limewashed; several minor defects have been carried out.

Thirty four samples of new milk have been submitted to the Public Analyst who certified all as "genuine new milk" with one exception, as this was not a bad case, a warning was issued to the vendor by the West Riding County Council.

FACTORY & WORKSHOPS ACT 1901.

There were entered on the Register on December 31st. 1918, 28 Factories, 30 Workshops, 9 Bakehouses, and 2 Outworkers. 140 inspections have been made and 7 preliminary notices have been served upon the occupiers to remedy sanitary defects, these have all been complied with.

PUBLIC ABATTOIR. Daily inspections have been made at the Public Abattoir, and all slaughtering was found to be carried out in a satisfactory manner. During the year 337 lbs. of beef 94 lbs. of pork, 10 lbs. of fat and 369 lbs of livers and other internal organs were found to be diseased and were surrendered. This diseased meat was destroyed and made into pig and poultry foods. One cwt. of mussels were condemned as unfit for food.

REMOVAL OF HOUSEHOLD REFUSE. The sum of £811:13:10 has been expended in the collection and disposal of 3,565 loads of house

refuse, 3910 loads of which have been destroyed at the Destructor Works and 656 loads taken to Cocken End and other tips.

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS. Twelve observations for black smoke were made at the chimneys in connection with the steam boilers at the various works. None of these observations show good results. I having called the attention of the owners or Managers to the fact, and in each case war conditions viz; labour and quality of fuel are ascribed to be largely responsible, happily these are likely to be removed very soon, when we shall be able to press for these nuisances to be abated.

Yours Obediently,

HENRY WEST Assoc; R.S. Inst

Sanitary Inspector.

